

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

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**NEIGHBORHOODS, COMMUNITY SERVICES, PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**FOOD DESERTS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Conference Room A, 4th floor, City Hall**

**December 9, 2019**

**2:00 p.m.**

**In attendance:** CM Newby (Chair), CM Carlucci, CM Gaffney, CM Morgan and CM Pittman

**Also**: Paige Johnston – Office of General Counsel; Richard Distel– Council Research Division; Sharonda Davis – Legislative Services Division

**Meeting Convened**: 2:00 p.m.

CM Newby started the meeting and asked Paul Crawford, Office of Economic Development, to give an update on the Gateway Grocery Store. Publix will be closing its doors at the location on December 28th and Winn-Dixie is planning to fill that location in the first quarter of next year. The legislation will be going in front of the Council and will reimburse 40% of the cost or $850,000, whichever is less for Winn-Dixie. The goal was to be proactive and not wait until the Publix closed to move forward with legislation. CM Gaffney thanked Mr. Crawford for the work that OED has done to fill this space. CM Gaffney announced that on January 17th Food Share, Winn-Dixie, CM Gaffney and Newby will put together a food giveaway outside of the closed Gateway location.

Mr. Crawford went over the mobile market bill (2019-813), which is a $250,000 grant going to Feeding Northeast Florida so they can purchase two 32-foot trailers with cooling systems which allows them to be able to bring fresh fruit and vegetables to 5 locations per week.

Kirk Wendland, Office of Economic Development, gave an update on the legislation which give rideshare access to grocery stores for those living in the Northwest area. Jacksonville Transportation Authority is doing a one-year pilot program which will be operational February 1st that costs $18 per ride for JTA and has a budget of $100,000. The rides will be free to those using it in the designated Northside area.

CM Carlucci brought up the Baldwin town-run grocery store and asked if that model might work in Jacksonville and be duplicated with small neighborhood markets. Mr. Wendland cautioned the idea of a city-run grocery store in Jacksonville. CM Newby suggested making another category for funding designated as small emerging markets. This would allow for a funding source to be directed towards smaller markets. CM Carlucci said he would lead this focus on emerging small markets. CM Carlucci said he would meet with Mr. Wendland and Mr. Crawford as well as Paulette Turner to discuss what help could be given for emerging small markets. Ms. Turner detailed the property she owns and her goal to open a grocery store in that location.

Kirk Wendland gave an overview of the Northwest Economic Development Funds. There is approximately $5.4 million in the NW Economic Development Funds. There is $1 million in the Food Desert fund.

CM Newby adjourned the meeting.

**Meeting adjourned:** 2:49 p.m.

Minutes: Richard Distel, Council Research Division

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